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A C C O U N T
O F T H E
P R O C E E D I N G S

upon His Majesties Gracious Pardon, extended to the
poor Distressed Prisoners in the Goal of

NEVVGATE

for the City of *London*, and County of
Middlesex,

For Divers *Crimes* and *High Misdemeanors* by
them *Committed*, and hereafter mentioned.

As it was proceeded on *Saturday* the 21th. of this
Instant *March*, 1685 at *Justice-Hall* in the
Old-Bayly.

A Great Number of Persons for breaking the known Laws of this Kingdom ; having forfeited their Lives and Fortunes to offended Justice , yet the Fatal Sentence, through the Mercy and never failing Compassion of a Gracious and Benign Prince being deferred : His present Sacred Majesty not to be wanting in his Transcendant Commiseration , and Lenity to his lost and undone Subjects , whose Crimes had brought them to the extreamest Misery, was pleased to grant a Gracious Pardon to 16 by Name, who at sundry times have received Sentence of Death, at *Justice-Hall* in the *Old-Bayly*. Upon their being Convicted of such Crimes, as rendered them obnoxious to that dreadful Penalty : Whereupon, and in order to their Deliverance by laying hold of the Royal Clemency. The Right Honourable Sr. *James Smith*, Lord Mayor of the City of *London*, and divers of the Worshipful Aldermen, &c. came to the *Hall* before mentioned, whither the Prisoners were brought before them from the County Goal of *Newgate*, and called over by their respective Names ; when being demanded what they could say why Sentence of Death already denounced against them should not be Executed on them ; they unanimously implored the Benefit of the Grace and Favour his Sacred Majesty had been pleased to extend towards them ; whereupon the Pardon was allowed and read, they all the while with many Expressions of Joy and Gratitude as appeared by their looks and semblances, kneeling on the Flore ; after which the Court admonished them to beware how they fell again into the like Danger , and to be ever wonderfully sensible of the Mercy they had received from their Gracious Prince, whose Laws they had broken and violated, &c.

The Persons who received the Benefit of Mercy and Clemency
were these, viz.

Thomas Potts alias Bots, Joseph Cartiss, Jon Den alias Dean, Edward Hubbard, John Mould, John Smith, Edward Pain, Elizabeth Ratcliffe, Crispian Bremfield, Robert Todd, Mary Potts, John Leneve, Thomas Benson, John Pell, John Fuller, Sarah Carter, Barbara Williams, John Thorowgood, John Morgan, Doreas Morgan, Dorothy Waller, Christopher Redman, John Harrup, William Fincham, Richard Scot, James Walden, Jonathan Parsons, James Wrothwell, Mary Reeves, John Walker, Edward Perkins, John Holms, Thomas Smith, Roger Marty, Joshua Blodworth, Elizabeth Townsend, Richard Enos, Thomas Brown, Charles Cartmore, John Walbank, Henry Curley, Mary Shelton, John Richardson, William Temple, William Butler, Thomas Vicars, William Pierce, Jane Brown, Anne Smith, John Arnold, Henry White, Joseph Keys, Mary Kerby, Joan Johnson, William Thomas, Sylvanus Morris, Mathew Harwood alias Herrod, Robert Adams, Francis Abraham, Richard Scarlet, John Holtham, Henry List, Ralph Harrison, Charles Buckler, Thomas Stevenson, John Hays, William Williams, John Clutton alias Clinton, William Clark, George Clark, Daniel Valentine, John Davis, Catharine Cotrell, Philemon Addams, Francis Peverson, and George Claskie

As for their Crimes, they are Divers and of a different Nature, viz. Buslock and Horse Stealing, Robbery upon the High-way, Felony and Burglary, Tankard Stealing, Picking of Pockets, Clipping, Robbing in the Streets, by snatching Goods from under Peoples Arms, Murther, Manlaughter; Marrying a Second Wife, the first being alive, Refusing the Oath, &c. They for the most part being Convicted of different and peculiar Crimes; many of them having been Old offenders, Burnt in the Hand, Transported or Whipped; for former Offences, yet would not take those warnings, but cast their lives into a second hazzard; and had been dead, had not Mercy interposed: Some of them again were Servants, inticed and drawn away by Evil Company as themselves Confessed, to Rob and deceive those that had intrusted them, not weighing the Danger they incurred, by giving way to the Temptation of such Seducers; but amongst others, it is remarkable that near a fifth part of the Number of these Transgressors were Imprisoned, Tried and Convicted, for stealing Silver Tankards; such opportunities give those that sell Drink therein to wretched Pilferers, to plunge themselves into ruin for an inconsiderable Gain.

The Pardon being pleaded, they returned with much joy to the place from whence they came, as knowing they had escaped an untimely Fate that hovered round them and dayly Terrified them with continual fear of an Ignominious Death their Crimes deserving no less, and their Imaginations filled with the dreadful Ideas of such as have so frequently suffered for the like Offences, though 't is greatly feared that it will hardly be a means to reclaim those that have been long hardened in Iniquity and made a Trade of Sinning, though they promise Reformation and Amendment of Life, and that they will make good use of those days that are added to the few Moments they once expected but to live: Life being Naturally coveted by all Men, as well by those that are in Misery, as such who live in Ease and Plenty; so fearful are the boldest or the most despicable, to plunge into a vast Eternity when death approaches in his Tremendous Form.

To Conclude, our hopes are that such Transcendant Goodness as has been Graciously dispenced off toward them, will so work upon their stubborn Natures, that it will in a manner compell them to Loyalty, Honesty, and due Obedience for the Future.